

Government, Citizenship & the Constitution

Chapter 8

Name: _____ Section: _____ Date: _____

Chapter 8 Vocabulary

1. Domestic Tranquility
2. General Welfare
3. Liberty
4. Articles
5. Popular Sovereignty
6. Limited Government
7. Checks and Balances
8. Federalism
9. House of Representative
10. Senate
11. Bill
12. Electoral College
13. Unconstitutional
14. Veto
15. Impeach
16. Infrastructure
17. Citizen
18. Naturalize
19. Immigrant
20. Jury Duty

Notes

Section I:

I. Principles behind the Constitution

A. Our Constitution was created based on 7 basic principles:

1. Popular Sovereignty:
2. Limited Government:
3. Separation of Powers:
4. Checks and Balances:
5. Federalism:
6. Republicanism:
7. Individual Rights:

Section II

II. Goals of the Constitution

- A. Goals of the Constitution are stated in the Constitution's preamble.

Preamble to the Constitution

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

B. 6 goals of the Constitution:

1. Form a more perfect union (government)
2. Establish justice for all
3. Insure domestic tranquility
4. Provide for the common defense
5. Promote general welfare
6. Secure the blessings of liberty

Section III

I. Article I: The Legislative Branch

a. Called Congress

b. Bicameral-Divided into 2 houses:

i. House of Representatives

1. Largest of 2 houses:

2. Representation based on population

3. Members serve 2 year terms

4. Speaker of the House presides over the House of Representatives

5. Requirements:

a. 25+

b. Citizen for 7 years

c. Reside in state which elected

ii. Senate

1. Each state is equal: 2 per state

2. Senators serve 6 year terms

3. Vice President presides over Senate

a. President pro tempore presides in VPs absence

4. Requirements:

a. 30+

b. Citizen for 9 years

c. Reside in state in which elected

c. Powers of Congress

i. Make nation's laws

- 1. Laws start as bills**
- 2. Bills can begin in either house**
- 3. If both houses vote to approve the bill, it is sent to the President, who must sign it before it becomes law**

ii. Powers listed in Constitution

- 1. Collect taxes**
- 2. Borrow money**
- 3. Coin money**
- 4. Create post offices**
- 5. Fix standard weights & measures**
- 6. Declare war**

iii. The Elastic Clause

- 1. "Congress can make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying out its duties."**
 - a. Allows Congress to stretch its powers to deal with the changing needs of the nation.**

Section IV

I. Article II: The Executive Branch

a. Includes:

- i. President-Head**
- ii. Vice President**
- iii. Cabinet**
- iv. Departments and agencies that help President do his/her work.**

b. Length in office

- i. Serves a 4 year term**
- ii. 2 term limit**
- iii. 10 years max**

c. Requirements to be President:

- i. Natural born citizen**
- ii. 35+**
- iii. Resident of U.S. for 14 years**

d. Powers of the President

- i. Constitution gives few details. Most powers set by precedents.**
 - 1. Commander in Chief of military**
 - 2. Appoint ambassadors**
 - 3. Make treaties**
 - 4. Suggests new laws**
 - 5. Grant pardons**

e. Electing a President

- i. Elected every 4 years
- ii. Elected by electoral college
 - 1. There are 538 votes in the electoral college
 - 2. The number of votes each state gets is based on the number of Representatives and Senators each state has.

Representatives + Senators = States electoral college vote

EX: Pennsylvania (21 Electoral College Votes)

19 Representatives + 2 Senators = PA's 21 electoral votes

- 3. A candidate needs to receive 270 votes to win

Section V

I. Article III: The Judicial Branch

a. Called the Supreme Court

b. Powers of the Supreme Court:

i. The job of the Supreme Court is to interpret laws.

ii. The Supreme Court has the power to declare laws unconstitutional.

c. Make up of Supreme Court:

i. 9 Justices

1. 1 Chief Justice

2. 8 associate justices

ii. All justices are appointed by the president and must be confirmed by the Senate.

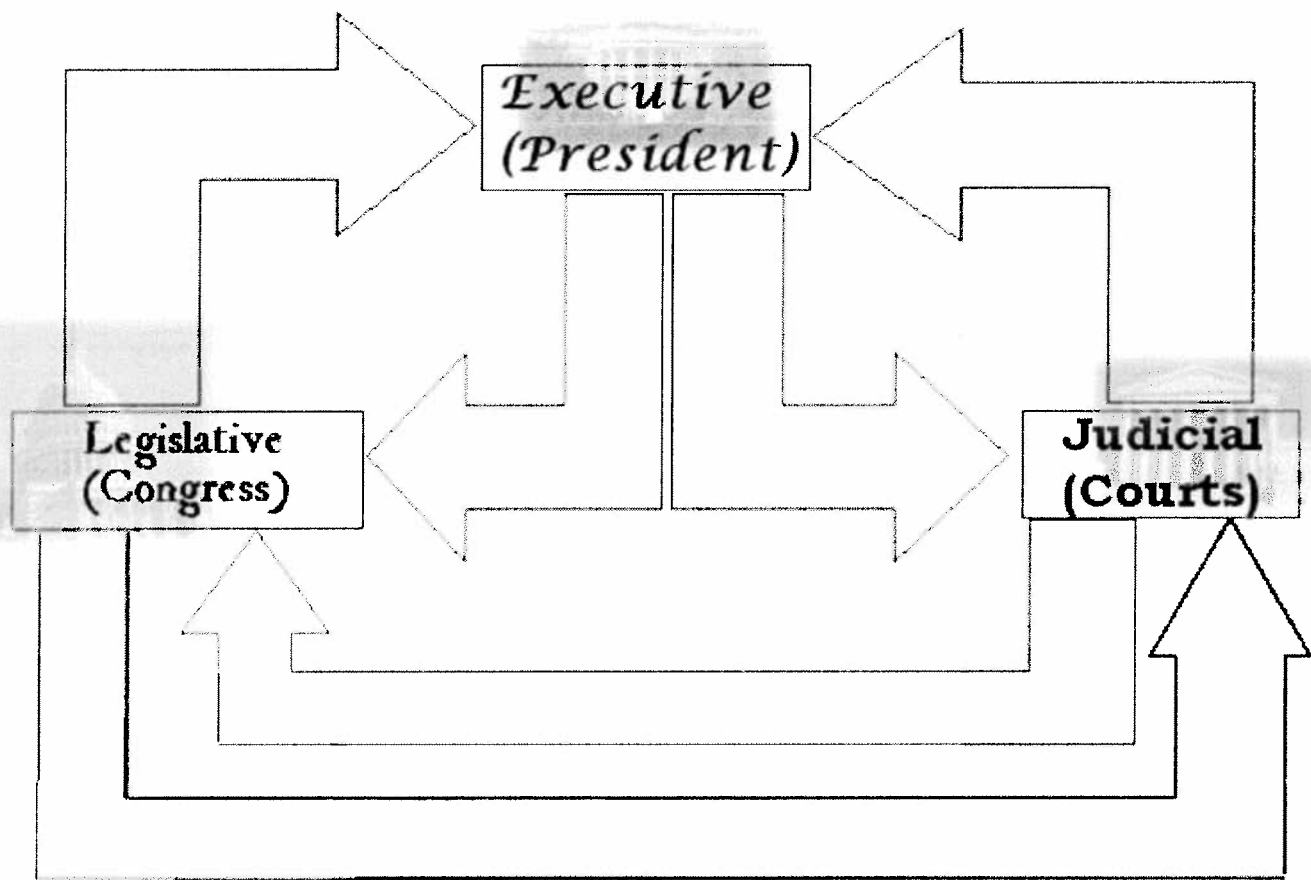
iii. Justices serve for life/good behavior

Section VI

I. Checks and Balances

- a. The principle of separation of powers divides our government into 3 branches to keep one branch from becoming too powerful.
- b. The system of checks and balances further safeguards against the abuse of power.
 - i. Checks and balances give each branch the power to limit the actions of the other two.

The System of Checks and Balances



Section VII

I. Article IV: Relations Between the States

- a. Each state must extend “full faith and credit” to the other states.
 - i. States must recognize legal documents of other states.
 - 1. Marriage Certificates
 - 2. Death Certificates
- b. States must treat citizens of other states the same way it treats citizens of its state.
- c. States must extradite wanted criminals for trial.
- d. Sets procedures for the admittance of new states
- e. Guarantees to states
 - i. The federal government promises to protect each state from foreign invasion and internal disorder if asked.

Section VIII

I. Article V: Amending the Constitution

- a. The framers did not want to make it easy to change, or amend, the Constitution.
- b. Article V outlines 2 ways of amending the Constitution.
 - i. If 2/3 of both the House of Representatives and the Senate agree, they can amend the Constitution
 - ii. If 2/3 of the states call for a national convention, they can amend the constitution.

II. Amendments

- a. 27 total amendments
- b. Bill of Rights:
 - i. First 10 amendments to Constitution
 - ii. Added in 1791
- c. Other notable amendments:
 - i. 13th Amendment-Ended slavery(1865)
 - ii. 19th Amendment-Women's suffrage(1920)
 - iii. 26th Amendment-Lowered voting age from 21 to 18 (1971)

Section IX

I. Article VI: National Supremacy

Section X

I. Ratification

Section XI

I. Rights and responsibilities of Citizens

a. A citizen is a person who owes loyalty to a particular nation and is entitled to all its rights and privileges.

b. To me a U.S. citizen you must...

i. Be born in the U.S.

ii. Be naturalized

iii. Be 18 or younger when your parents were naturalized.

c. Responsibilities of citizens

i. Vote:

ii. Obey laws:

iii. Defend the nation:

iv. Serve on Juries:

v. Serve the community:

vi. Be informed:

Resources